

NEWS

From the Office of

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La Mesa/Nisqualli Interchange, Yucca Loma Bridge Allocated \$15 million

SAN BERNARDINO – The La Mesa/Nisqualli interchange on Interstate 15 in Victorville and the Yucca Loma bridge in Apple Valley were allocated a total of \$15 million today by San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), the County's transportation authority.

"The La Mesa/Nisqualli-Yucca Loma corridor will provide a new east-west route in the Victor Valley that will ease traffic flow, spur economic development and improve the quality of life for all residents in the region," said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who serves as vice president of SANBAG. "I would like to thank SANBAG staff and the SANBAG Board of Directors for their hard work in moving this critical corridor project toward construction."

The allocation of Surface Transportation Program funding in the amounts of \$7.5 million each to the La Mesa/Nisqualli interchange and the Yucca Loma bridge also makes the Victor Valley whole after \$15 million in state transportation funds were redirected away from Victorville's interchange to the San Bernardino Valley two years ago.

"When that money was shifted away from the High Desert, I pledged that the Victor Valley would receive its fair share," said Supervisor Mitzelfelt. "This fulfills that promise and demonstrates a spirit of cooperation between SANBAG and the High Desert that will continue to benefit the entire region."

Construction of the La Mesa/Nisqualli interchange is expected to cost \$63 million. SANBAG also awarded the project \$4.8 million last year and recently committed \$24 million in funds from Measure I, the half-percent sales tax for transportation approved by San Bernardino County voters. With the additional \$7.5 million, and the remaining \$31.5 million being covered by developer fees through the City of Victorville, the project could be under construction by the end of the year. It will take about two years to complete. Total state, federal and local funding directed by SANBAG toward the project totals nearly \$51.7 million, which has also helped fund pre-construction work such as design, environmental review and right of way acquisition.

The Yucca Loma Bridge project is also expected to break ground this year or early next year.